

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 02080 131639Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----125412 141350Z /53

R 131359Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2434
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2080

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, PINT, TECH, BR, NL
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS WITH DUTCH

REF: STATE 92861 (NOTAL)

1. WARMLY APPRECIATE REFTTEL WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO CALIBRATE FURTHER GON HANDLING OF BRAZILIAN ENRICHMENT CONTRACT.
 2. ONE COLLATERAL BUT IMPORTANT POINT SHOULD BE NOTED. THE COMMENTS OF TANNENONS BAKKER TO NYE REFLECT A PERCEPTION WHICH WE HAVE ALSO ENCOUNTERED IN THE HAGUE, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE SUPPORTERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, OF WHICH THERE IS A HEAVY CONCENTRATION IN THE MFA. THIS PERCEPTION IS THAT THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE PRESENT CENTER-RIGHT GOVERNMENT WITH THE BRAZILIAN ENRICHMENT ISSUE--AS WELL AS OTHERS SUCH AS ERW--ARE CAUSED BY THE SOCIALISTS WHO, IN OPPOSITION, ARE LESS RESPONSIBLE THAN THEY WERE WHEN IN GOVERNMENT.
 2. THIS PERCEPTION IS INCORRECT AND THOROUGHLY MISLEADING. OF COURSE, THE SOCIALISTS IN OPPOSITION ARE MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHENEVER THEY CAN. BUT THE DIFFICULTIES FOR
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THE GOVERNMENT STEM NOT SO MUCH FROM THEM AS FROM THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHO CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST COALITION PARTY IN PARLIAMENT. MANY OF THEM APPROACH NUCLEAR ISSUES GINGERLY AND WITH MARKED DISTASTE. MANY ARE ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND HENCE PREDISPOSED AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY AS WELL AS NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AS WE HAVE INDICATED (77 THE HAGUE 6383), A NUMBER OF THEM, INCLUDING FLOOR LEADER AANTJES, HAVE EXPLICITLY DISASSOCIATED

THEMSELVES FROM THE BASIC AGREEMENT WHICH CONSTITUTES THE COMMON PLATFORM OF THE CDA/LIBERAL COALITION. SPECIFICALLY, THE PROBLEMS FOR THE GON ON THE BRAZILIAN ENRICHMENT ISSUES SPRING DIRECTLY FROM THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY PARLIAMENT IN THE SO-CALLED VAN HOUSELINGEN MOTION (THE HAGUE 542). HE IS A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT. ON ERW, WHAT MADE DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION SO OVERWHELMING WAS THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, REFLECTING ORGANIZED CHURCH OPPOSITION AGAINST THE WEAPON. THE NOTION THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S DIFFICULTIES ARE TO BE BLAMED SOLELY ON IRRESPONSIBLE SOCIALISTS IS THEREFORE FALSE AND IS EVIDENCE OF A CAPACITY OF WISHFUL THINKING AND SELF-DECEPTION, EVEN ON THE PART OF RESPONSIBLE DIPLOMATS WHO OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, CONTRACTS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA02080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780160-1048
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780458/aaaabxhu.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d657a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 92861
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2972035
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS WITH DUTCH
TAGS: PARM, PINT, TECH, BR, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d657a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014